AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for generating an index of fundamental investment returns in asset classes that comprise the index, including commercial asset classes, comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting a representative set of assets, where each said assets may be is grouped into a respective one of a plurality of asset classes;

(b) for any time t including the present time, time t being at the close of a holding period h, generating a rule based on market prices at a plurality of times preceding time t to determine a position for each of said assets for a succeeding holding period h+1;

(c) determining the position for each of said assets for said succeeding holding period h+1 in accordance with said rule, wherein the position indicates whether each particular asset is long or short;

(d) obtaining market prices for each of said assets at the beginning and end of said succeeding holding period h+1;

(e) computing with a computer a return for each of said assets for said succeeding holding period h+1, said return being a function of the position for said succeeding holding period h+1 and the market prices at the beginning and end of said succeeding holding period h+1 determined in steps (c) and (d);

(f) averaging the returns computed in step (e) for all the selected assets in each of said plurality of asset classes, the average for each of said asset classes is the return for that asset class; and

(g) computing with a computer the index as a function of by combining the returns for each asset class.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, where the step (g) of computing the index further comprises the steps of selecting weights such that each weight corresponds to one of said plurality of <u>asset</u> classes, and averaging the products of the return for each <u>asset</u> class multiplied by its corresponding weight.

3.   (Currently Amended) A method for generating a series of investment returns with respect to time, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting a plurality of assets from a plurality of asset classes;

(b) determining a position for each of said assets for a time t based on historical market price data<u>, wherein the position indicates whether each particular asset is long or short</u>;

(c) determining a holding period beginning at time t for each of said assets;

(d) obtaining a market price for each of said assets at time t and at the end of said holding period;

(e) computing with a computer an asset return for each of said assets for said holding period, said asset return being a function of the position and the market price of each of said assets at time t and at the end of said holding period;

(f) averaging said asset returns computed in step (e) for said holding period, for all of said assets in each of said asset classes;

(g) determining a class return for each of said asset classes based on said averaging; and

(h) computing with a computer an index of returns for said holding period, ~~as a function of~~ <u>by combining</u> the class returns for each of said asset classes for said holding period.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of computing the index of investment returns further comprises the steps of selecting weights such that each weight corresponds to one of said asset classes, and averaging the products of the class return for each asset class multiplied by the corresponding weight.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising selecting at least one asset from each of two commercial markets.

6. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said plurality of asset classes comprises at least one from the group of: commodities, currencies, and bonds.

7. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising determining said position based on whether the market price for each of said assets increased or decreased since a predefined time preceding said time t.

8. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising determining said position based on a moving average of the asset returns for each of said assets for a predetermined past time period.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

(a) determining a continuous series of returns for each of said assets, wherein a return is determined using a futures contract for each of said assets for each of a plurality of holding periods;

(b) determining an average value of the continuous series over a predetermined number of past holding periods; and

(c) determining said position as a function of the current value of the continuous series and said average value of the continuous series.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of setting the position to long when the current value of said continuous series of futures returns is greater than the average value of the continuous series, and otherwise setting the position to short.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of determining one or more futures contracts for each of said assets and determining the market prices for each of said assets for said times t in accordance with the futures contract for said times t.

12. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said step of computing the asset return for each of said assets further comprises the step of setting the asset return equal to the product of the market price at said time t divided by the market price at a preceding time t-1 multiplied by the position for said time t.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of determining the investment return for the holding period beginning at time t as the average of the class returns for said holding period, and determining an index for said holding period as the product of the index

for the preceding said holding period multiplied by the sum of one plus the investment return for the

holding period beginning at time t.

14 and 15 (Canceled)

16.   (Currently Amended) A method for generating a series of investment returns for a plurality

of asset classes <u>that comprise an index</u>, each class having at least one asset member, the method

comprising the steps of:

    (a) determining a plurality of holding periods;

    (b) determining a futures contract for each asset member, each futures contract having a

market price at the beginning and end of each of said holding periods;

    (c) calculating a continuous series of futures returns for each asset member based on the

futures contract and the market price for said asset member at the beginning and end of each of said

holding periods;

    (d) determining a position for each said asset member for each of said holding periods based

on said continuous series of futures returns for the preceding holding periods<u>, wherein the position</u>

<u>indicates whether each particular asset is long or short</u>;

    (e) calculating an asset return for each said asset member based on the position and the

market price at the beginning and end of said holding period;

    (f) calculating a class return for each asset class based on the market returns for each asset

member in said class; and

(g) calculating an investment return for said holding period, <u>by combining</u> ~~based on~~ the class returns <u>among the asset classes of the index</u>.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said plurality of asset classes comprises at least one from the group of: commodities, currencies, and bonds.

18.   (Currently Amended) A method for generating a series of investment returns for a plurality of asset classes <u>that comprise an index</u>, each class having at least one asset member, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) determining a holding period for each said asset member;

(b) determining a futures contract for each asset member, each said futures contract having a market price for the beginning and end of each said holding period;

(c) determining a position for each said asset member based on the futures contract, the market prices and the holding period, <u>wherein the position indicates whether each particular asset is long or short</u>;

(d) determining an asset return for each said asset member as a function of the position for each said holding period and the prices at the beginning and end of each said holding period;

(e) determining a class return for each asset class as an average of the asset return for each said asset class member;

(f) determining a weight corresponding to each said asset class;

(g) determining a weighted return for each said asset class as a product of the class return for each said asset class and the corresponding weight; and

(h) determining an investment return for said holding period as a sum of the weighted return for each said asset class <u>among the asset classes of the index</u>.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein said plurality of asset classes comprises at least one from the group of commodities, currencies, and bonds.

20 and 21 (Canceled)

22.   (Currently Amended) A system for generating an index of investment returns, comprising a processor; and a memory storing processing instructions for controlling the processor, the processor operative with the processing instructions for:

        (a) selecting a plurality of assets from a plurality of asset classes;

        (b) determining a position for each of said assets for a time t based on historical market price data<u>, wherein the position indicates whether each particular asset is long or short</u>;

        (c) determining a holding period beginning at time t for each of said assets;

        (d) obtaining a market price for each of said assets at time t and at the end of said holding period;

        (e) computing with a computer an asset return for each of said assets for said holding period, said asset return being a function of the position and the market price at time t and at the end of said holding period;

        (f) averaging said asset returns computed in step (e) for said holding period, for all of said assets in each of said asset classes;

(g) determining a class return for each of said asset classes based on said averaging; and

(h) computing with a computer an index of investment returns for said holding period ~~as a function of~~ by combining the class returns for each of said asset classes for said holding period.

23.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22, wherein the step of computing the index of investment returns further comprises the steps of selecting weights such that each weight corresponds to one of said asset classes, and averaging the products of the class return for each asset class multiplied by the corresponding weight.

24.   (Canceled)

25.   (Currently Amended) A system for generating an index of investment returns for a plurality of asset classes that comprise the index, each class having at least one asset member, comprising a processor; and a memory storing processing instructions for controlling the processor, the processor operative with the processing instructions for: (a) determining a plurality of holding periods; (b) determining a futures contract for each asset member, each futures contract having a market price at the beginning and end of each of said holding periods; (c) calculating a continuous series of returns for each asset member based on the futures contract and the market price for said asset member at the beginning and end of each of said holding periods; (d) determining a position for each said asset member for each of said holding periods based on said continuous series of futures returns for the preceding holding periods, wherein the position indicates whether each particular asset is long or short; (e) calculating an asset return for each said asset member based on the position and market

price of each of said assets at the beginning and end of said holding period; (f) calculating a class

return for each asset class based on the market returns for each asset member in said class; and (g)

calculating an investment return for said holding period <u>by combining</u> ~~based on~~ the class returns for

each of said assets <u>among the asset classes of the index</u> for said holding period.

26.   (Currently Amended) A system for generating an index of investment returns <u>for a plurality</u>

<u>of asset classes that comprise the index, each class having at least one asset member</u>, comprising a

processor; and a memory storing processing instructions for controlling the processor, the processor

operative with the processing instructions for: (a) determining a holding period for each said asset

member; (b) determining a futures contract for each asset member, each said futures contract having

a market price at the beginning and end of each said holding period; (c) determining a position for

each said asset class member based on the futures contract, the market prices and the holding

period<u>, wherein the position indicates whether each particular asset is long or short</u>; (d) determining

an asset return for each said asset member as a function of the position for each said holding period

and the prices at the beginning and end of said holding period; (e) determining a class return for

each asset class for each said holding period as an average of the asset return for each said asset

member for each said holding period; (f) determining a weight corresponding to each said asset

class; (g) determining a weighted return for each said asset class as a product of the class return for

each said asset class and the corresponding weight; and (h) determining an investment return for

said holding period as a sum of the weighted return for each said asset class <u>among the asset classes</u>

<u>of the index</u>.

27 -30 (Canceled)

31.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with processing instructions for implementing a method for generating an index of investment returns <u>for a plurality of asset classes that comprise the index, each class having at least one asset member</u>, the method comprising: (a) determining a plurality of holding periods; (b) determining a futures contract for each asset member, each futures contract having a market price at the beginning and end of each of said holding periods; (c) calculating a continuous series of futures returns for each asset member based on the futures contract and the market price for said asset member for each of said holding periods; (d) determining a position for each said asset member for each of said holding periods based on said continuous series of futures returns for the preceding holding periods<u>, wherein the position indicates whether each particular asset is long or short</u>; (e) calculating an asset return for each said asset member for each said holding period based on the position and the market prices at the beginning and end of said holding period; (f) calculating a class return for each asset class for each said holding period based on the market returns for each asset member in said class; and (g) calculating an investment return for said holding period <u>by</u> combining <s>based on</s> the class returns <u>among the asset classes of the index</u>.

32.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with processing instructions for implementing a method for generating an index of investment returns <u>for a plurality of asset classes that comprise the index, each class having at least one asset member</u>, the method comprising: (a) determining a holding period for each said asset member; (b) determining a futures

contract for each asset member, each said futures contract having a market price at the beginning and end of each said holding period; (c) determining a position for each said asset member based on the futures contract, the market price and the holding period, wherein the position indicates whether each particular asset is long or short; (d) determining an asset return for each said asset member for each said holding period as a function of the position for said holding period and the market prices at the beginning and end of said holding period; (e) determining a class return for each asset class for each said holding period as an average of the asset return for each said asset member for each said holding periods; (f) determining a weight corresponding to each said asset class; (g) determining a weighted return for each said asset class for each said holding period as a product of the class return for each said asset class and the corresponding weight; and (h) determining an investment return for each said holding period as a sum of the weighted return for each said asset class among the asset classes of the index.

33. (Canceled)